

Nebraska, with the NSEA. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. We are looking for Senator Ashford, Senator Barrett, Senator Conway, Senator Harris, Senator McFarland, Senator Rogers, Senator Withem. May I introduce some guests, please. Under the north balcony, guests of Senator Lowell Johnson, from Fremont, Nebraska, Joan Thutge and Roger Larson. Would you folks please stand. And Senator Emil Beyer has guests from Gretna, Nebraska, Wanda Glashoff with the NSEA. Would you please stand, Miss Glashoff. Senator Carol Pirsch would like to have introduced Dr. Richard Galusha, Coordinator of the Psychological Services of the Omaha Public Schools, under the north balcony please. Would you please stand. Senator Ashford, will you please record your presence. We are looking for Senator Withem. Would you like to start your closing now, Senator Rupp? Thank you.

SENATOR RUPP: Mr. President, colleagues, I won't apologize for the call because it is the first one I've had this year, but I think it is really your last chance to vote on a bill that is important, and I'm afraid it is going to get some of my colleagues in trouble at some point in time out there on the rubber chicken circuit, when people bounce you about property taxes, and you are not going to be able to get completely out of this particular vote. First of all, I want to say a couple of things that I realize that some of the NRDs do an excellent job and, as pointed out before, that some of them don't do quite such a good job. I've got a problem with natural resources districts I think in my district. For starters I have four natural resources districts in Platte County. I have four. I requested several times that they look at the boundaries of these, but I haven't been able to get anywhere with them and that is, quite frankly, one of the reasons that we are having this discussion here today. This, I think, is a reasonable amendment. It says simply that there are 24 NRDs, 6 are at the lid, they wish to exceed the lid. This amendment would give those six that authority. I see no reason to give all 24 the authority when 18 have not even bothered, have not even bothered to ask for exceeding the lid. Why should we give more than they are asking for? Senator Landis and Senator Schmit have mentioned some possible constitutional problems. Senator Lamb and Senator Smith back here, who carried the tech college bill last year, Senator Smith said that as she recalls we did it exactly this way with them. I would make this concession, this bill will go over to Final Reading today, one way or the other, and I would certainly request an Attorney General's Opinion. If there is a problem with the constitutionality of this amendment,